



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Week 4 Legislative Update

February 04, 2025

Welcome to Week 4 of the legislative session. While every session has its challenges, today a new one emerged which affects all who are participating in the legislative process - the legislative website (leg.wa.gov) was down for most the day. So all links to bill pages, committee testimony, or trying to scroll through committee hearing agendas did not work. We expect the state to fix this issue soon.

If there are additional ways WACD can be of service to our membership during session, all you have to do is pick up the phone or write to [Tom](#), [Heather](#), or [Ryan](#)

1. Rates and Charges Bill Updates

The rates and charges proposal worked on by WACD and CDs for the last eighteen months is now [House Bill 1488](#) and [Senate Bill 5510](#). These bills, as proposed by the WACD resolutions adopted by the membership in 2023 and 2024, would allow counties to set the per parcel amount based on community need. It would also add clarifying language regarding the optional fee that Counties can collect to cover costs incurred to collect Rates and Charges.

Letters of Support Needed

If you have a legislator on the [House Finance Committee](#) or the [Senate Ways & Means Committee](#), please write to them with your district's support for the bill. A letter template can be found [here](#).

Senate Ways and Means Committee - SB 5510

February 4th at 4:30 PM

Sign in as Pro or to testify [here](#)

House Finance Committee - HB 1488

February 6th at 1:30 PM

Sign in as Pro or to testify [here](#)

2. One Pagers for Leg Day

For those who are coming to Leg Day, here are some handouts to consider sharing with your legislators. Paper copies will be on-hand Wednesday.

Available WACD Materials

- [WACD 2025 Legislative Priorities](#)
- [WACD - CDs 101 One-pager Audience A \(89 downloads\)](#)
- [WACD - CDs 101 One-pager Audience B \(64 downloads\)](#)
- [WACD - CDs 101 Talking Points \(with Spanish translation\) \(50 downloads\)](#)
- [WACD - CTA One-Pager \(103 downloads\)](#)

Available Commission Materials

- [2025 SCC Decision Packages](#)
- [2025 Decision Packages summary page](#)
- [RGP Handout](#)
- [WSRRI Handout](#)
- [CWR Handout](#)

3. Opportunities to Comment

One regular feature in our weekly legislative newsletter will be opportunities for our membership to engage with legislators each week of the legislative session. Online committee testimony is available for both the House and the Senate, you do not need to come to Olympia to speak at a Public Hearing for a bill. You can register to testify remotely on a bill by using [this link](#) and following the online instructions. Registration closes one hour before the scheduled start of the meeting for which you're seeking to speak. You also have the option to submit written testimony.

This week, here are a couple bills from [our bill tracker](#) scheduled for public hearings:

- [HB 1311](#) (Concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the department of fish and wildlife regarding the gray wolf.) and [HB 1442](#) (Providing flexibility for the department of fish and wildlife to collaborate with local governments to manage gray wolves.) are being heard in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 8 AM on Wednesday, February 5th. You can watch the testimony on [TVW at this link](#).
- [HB 1630](#) (Concerning livestock methane emissions.) Scheduled for a public hearing on Thursday, February 6th at 8 AM in the House Environment and Energy Committee. You can watch the testimony on [TVW at this link](#).
- [HB 1019](#) (Concerning tax incentives for farmers). Scheduled for a public hearing in the House Finance Committee at 1:30 PM Thursday, February 6th. You can watch the testimony on [TVW at this link](#).

4. WACD Legislative Day Details for February 5

Schedule

- **7:00 AM to 8:00 AM** – Breakfast (at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Lacey)
- **7:15 AM** – Welcome from WACD & Overview of WACD priorities
- **7:25 AM** – Welcome from the Commission
- **7:40 AM** – Briefing from WACD Lobbyist and Q&A
- **8:00 AM** – Attendees depart for meetings with Legislators
- **8:30 AM to 5:00 PM** – Attendees have access to the Columbia Room in the Legislative Building ~ Come take a break between meetings!
- **11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** – Invite your legislators and their legislative aids to swing by the Columbia Room to pick up a Common-Sense Conservation Cupcake
- **Noon** – WACD will be providing boxed lunches to participants. If you plan on joining us for lunch please **RSVP** to [Ryan](#) by **January 29th**.

Virtual Tours/Tabling

Last but not least if your CD would like to set up a display in the Columbia Room to showcase your CD to legislators stopping by to pick up a cupcake please email [Heather](#) to reserve your spot!

Hotel Information

We have a hotel at the same venue as 2024: the **Holiday Inn Express & Suites** in Lacey. If you are planning to come to Olympia, there will be a breakfast at the hotel the

morning of the 5th before everyone descends on the Capitol.

For a *per diem* rate hotel room at the Holiday Inn, here are some directions:

1. Click on [this link](#) for the hotel webpage.
2. Select the date you wish to stay (our per diem rate is for February 4).
3. Click "View Prices".
4. This should provide you with the option of 1 King bed or 2 Queen bed room at \$151 per night (excluding taxes), select your room type.
5. Complete Booking.

Outreach Materials

WACD will have copies of our CD's 101 and CTA outreach one-pagers available for districts to take to their meetings or you can access and print your own [here](#).



Those folks joining us on the hill on February 5th will receive a **45 Strong** lapel pin! This beautiful graphic was created by our great friends at [KR Creative Strategies](#)!

5. General Legislative Update

WACD's Lobbyist Brynn Brady writes a weekly update for those interested in the general happenings of Olympia. [This week](#) she covers the legislature's focus on new rules of procedure, the state's responses to federal actions, and significant bill introductions. You can view her post on the WACD Hub.



"Mazama Winter", courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#), as a treat for those who read to the bottom of the page.

Taken by Becky Drenner, Okanogan Conservation District



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